

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("__") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. – 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A data storage system comprising:

a data storage system housing having an opening, and first and second elongate reference rails located adjacent the opening;
a media storage device for storing a plurality of data media, the media storage device comprising a media storage device housing configured to receive the plurality of data media, the housing having a top, a bottom and opposing ends, the media storage device housing having a first and second elongate alignment grooves, each of which is adapted to slidably engage with a corresponding first respective one of the first and second elongate reference rails located adjacent an opening in the data storage system such that the media storage device may be inserted into and removed from the data storage system housing by slidably engaging the first elongate reference rails and the first elongate alignment grooves and guiding the media storage device through the opening of the data storage system housing along a longitudinal axis of the media storage device housing, the opposing ends of the media storage device housing being located along the longitudinal axis, the data media being inserted into and removed from the media storage device housing along an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis;

a data exchange device for reading data from the data media; and
a media handling system for transferring data media from the media storage
device to the data exchange device.

22. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 21, wherein the media storage device further comprises a locking plate attached to the media storage device housing and configured to engage a locking mechanism located in the opening in the data storage system housing.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) The data storage system of claim 21, wherein the housing of the media storage device is molded from plastic.

25. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 21, wherein the housing of the media storage device housing further comprises a handle operationally attached to the housing and configured to enable an operator to apply a force substantially parallel to the first elongate alignment groove such that when the first elongate alignment groove engages the first elongate reference rail the media storage device may be inserted and removed from the data storage system housing.

26. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 23-21, wherein the housing of the media storage device housing has a side portion that has a plurality of slots opposing sides located between the top and the bottom and extending parallel to

the longitudinal axis, at least one of the opposing sides being configured to receive the data media.

27. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 23-21, further comprising:

a spring mechanism comprising a first end and a second end, the first end being operationally attached to the top portion of the media storage device housing; and

a finger attached to the second end of the spring mechanism ~~and extending into the plurality of slots;~~

wherein the spring mechanism and the finger are configured to engage the data media ~~when received with the plurality of slots.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 26, wherein the media storage device housing comprises a plurality of slots ~~are~~ defined by a plurality of dividers positioned in spaced-apart relation within the media storage device housing so that the plurality of dividers are substantially parallel to the axis of the elongate slot.

29. (Previously Presented) The data storage system of claim 27, wherein the spring mechanism comprises a metallic strip.

30. – 34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 21 30, further comprising a means for applying a force substantially parallel to the first elongate

~~alignment groove such that when the means for slidably inserting and removing the media storage device engages the elongate reference rail the media storage device may be inserted and removed from the opening in the data storage system.~~

36. (New) A data storage system comprising:

a data storage system housing having an opening, and reference rails located adjacent the opening; and

a media storage device for storing a plurality of data media, the media storage device comprising a media storage device housing configured to receive the plurality of data media, the housing having opposing ends, the media storage device housing having alignment grooves, each of which is adapted to slidably engage with a respective one of the reference rails such that the media storage device may be inserted into and removed from the data storage system housing by slidably engaging the reference rails and the alignment grooves and guiding the media storage device through the opening of the data storage system housing along a longitudinal axis of the media storage device housing, the opposing ends of the media storage device housing being located along the longitudinal axis, the data media being inserted into and removed from the media storage device housing along an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis.

37. (New) The data storage system of claim 36, wherein the media storage device further comprises a locking plate attached to the media storage device housing and configured to engage a locking mechanism located in the opening in the data storage system housing.

38. (New) The data storage system of claim 36, wherein the housing of the media storage device is molded from plastic.

39. (New) The data storage system of claim 36, wherein the media storage device housing has opposing sides located between the top and the bottom and extending parallel to the longitudinal axis, at least one of the opposing sides being configured to receive the data media.

40. (New) The data storage system of claim 36, further comprising:
a spring mechanism comprising a first end and a second end, the first end being operationally attached to the top of the media storage device housing; and
a finger attached to the second end of the spring mechanism;
wherein the spring mechanism and the finger are configured to engage the data media.

41. (New) The data storage system of claim 36, wherein the media storage device housing comprises a plurality of slots defined by a plurality of dividers positioned in spaced-apart relation within the media storage device housing.

42. (New) The data storage system of claim 40, wherein the spring mechanism comprises a metallic strip.